UNITED NATIONS

TD

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Distr.
GENERAL

TD/B/WG.5/1
26 October 1992

Original: ENGLISH

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Ad Hoc Working Group on Interrelationship between Investment and Technology Transfer
First session
Geneva, 25 January 1993
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda and annotations to the provisional agenda

Note by the UNCTAD Secretariat

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
3. Establishment of the work programme of the Working Group
4. Provisional agenda for the second session of the Working Group
5. Other business
6. Adoption of the report of the Working Group to the Board

GE.92-52743 (E)

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Election of officers

In accordance with past practice in UNCTAD, it is proposed that the bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group consist of seven members (a Chairman, five Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur), to be elected from among the core membership* in accordance with the following geographical distribution:

List A and C combined: 4; List B: 2; and List D: 1.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The provisional agenda in section I follows the format agreed upon at the consultations of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on 17 July 1992. As provided for in the calendar of meetings, the Working Group will have available five working days from 25 to 29 January 1993. Throughout this session, interpretation facilities will be available. At the first meeting, on 25 January 1993, an opening statement will be made by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD or his representative. The rest of the time of the Working Group will be primarily devoted to item 3 of the agenda, as agreed in the consultations of the Secretary-General.

Item 3: Establishment of the work programme of the Working Group

With a view to assisting the Working Group in establishing its work programme, the UNCTAD secretariat has prepared a note entitled "Issues for consideration in the establishment of the work programme" (TD/B/WG.5/2), in which some priority areas are suggested to assist the Working Group in discharging its responsibilities. The note covers issues relating to interrelationship between investment and technology transfer under the following broad areas: (i) the policy environment; (ii) role of economic agents; (iii) technological change, trade competitiveness and structural adjustment; (iv) the process of technological capability-building; (v) technology indicators; (vi) environmentally-sound technologies. A background document entitled "The interrelationship between investment flows and technology transfer: an overview of the main issues", will also be made available to the Working Group. This background document, in examining the relationship between investment flows and technology transfer, discusses factors which affect the choice of a mode of technology transfer and identifies factors which affect the nature and directions of investment flows. It also deals with issues related to the contributions that investment flows could make to the development of domestic technological capability, and the effects of technological change on comparative advantage in trade, in particular the competitiveness of developing countries.

---

* In paragraph 77 of the Cartagena Commitment, the Conference specified that "... the core membership of these working groups will comprise all interested countries, which will nominate the relevant national experts. Other countries may participate in an observer capacity".

With respect to the work programme, it should be noted that, according to paragraph 11 of the terms of reference of the Working Group, "the Working Group may recommend for the consideration of the Board the establishment of expert groups".

Item 4: Provisional agenda for the second session of the Working Group

Paragraph 13 of the terms of reference of the Ad Hoc Working Group states: "The frequency of sessions of the Working Group is to be decided by the Board in accordance with the existing procedures concerning the calendar of meetings. The duration of the sessions should be of five days or less".

A draft provisional agenda for the second session of the Working Group will be considered in the light of the decisions of the Working Group with respect to its work programme.

Item 5: Other business

In accordance with paragraph 7 of the terms of reference which refers to the participation of non-governmental actors such as enterprises, trade unions, the academic community and non-governmental organizations as well as representatives of international institutions, the Working Group is invited to consider, depending on the issues, the participation of such non-governmental actors in the work of the group.

Item 6: Adoption of the report of the Working Group to the Board

Paragraph 12 of the terms of reference states that the Working Group "may submit interim reports and shall submit a final report on the results of its work to the Trade and Development Board".